

## FROM THE Mayor's Desk

Kia ora koutou, Council has made the tough decision not to try to open the Marton Pool this summer, and to concentrate immediately on a long-term solution. This was not an easy decision, there were concerns from the operators (CLM) and Councillors whether a temporary fix could be achieved safely and whether people would want to swim in a pool surrounded by bracing material. With the pool closed, it may be possible to do some of the work required earlier than next winter. Council has already started the search for the team of people, architects, engineers, and companies to do this work. I have asked Council and staff to review our existing budgets and to look for fundraising options to minimise any impacts on rates. Council and CLM are looking for alternatives so that some of the swimming activities and Learn to Swim classes can be held this summer in Marton.

On Friday, the Rangitikei hosted a Regional Growth Summit at Te Matapihi in Bulls. This brought together the Mayors, Councillors, and industry representatives from across our Horizons region. Minister Jones, Minister Potaka, and several other members of Parliament were there to listen to what we think is needed for our region to develop. In Minister Jones' address and replies to questions from the floor, he promised that Government will work with our Council to help with the infrastructural needs in Rātana. This will mean that we will get some assistance for the Rātana wastewater problems and solutions.

**Ngā mihi, Andy Watson, Mayor of Rangitikei.**



Bracing inside the Marton Swim Centre.

## Marton Swim Centre to be closed for 2024/25 summer season

At the Council meeting held Thursday 26 September 2024, Rangitikei District Council discussed recommendations regarding the reopening of Marton Swim Centre.

After significant debate, council decided to keep the swim centre closed for the 2024/25 summer season. Council have instructed staff to conduct further investigation of the Marton Swim Centre to determine a more holistic understanding of the repairs required to future-proof the facility. The vote to close the Marton Swim Centre over the 2024/25 summer season was passed 6 votes to 5 votes.

Rangitikei District Mayor Andy Watson says council have decided to take a future-focused view of the facility, with user safety the priority.

"The Marton Swim Centre is a wonderful asset and the only Olympic sized indoor swimming pool in the region. We have the chance to ensure this facility will serve our community for the long-term, and council have decided to take that opportunity now.

"We understand this news will be disappointing to many in the community. The recommendations put forward by staff were thoroughly considered by all councillors and our discussions included input from pool operators Community Leisure Management, who were present at the meeting.

"We will continue to work with the operators of the Marton Swim Centre to offer alternative services to the community over the summer months," says Mayor Andy.

In August 2024, structural damage to a beam caused a partial collapse of the Marton Swim Centre roof. Council staff have been working with Community Leisure Management (CLM), the Marton Swim Centre operators, to develop a number of contingencies to facilitate community access to swimming and leisure activities in the case council decided to keep the swim centre closed.

Council and CLM will keep residents informed of the options that will be available to them, and when they will be happening.



**FREE  
HOLIDAY FUN**

## SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

Join us these school holidays for three exciting programmes at the Taihape Library, Marton Library and Te Matapihi - Bulls Community Centre.

Activities include;

- Sewing
- Scrapbooking
- Lego competition
- Colouring in competition
- Indoor and outdoor games

For the full schedule, visit the Rangitikei District Libraries & Information Centres Facebook page, or email the library directly:

**taihapelib@rangitikei.govt.nz**

**martlib@rangitikei.govt.nz**

**bullslib@rangitikei.govt.nz**



## Welcome to our newest New Zealanders

Rangitikei District Council welcomed nine of the district's newest citizens last week at Te Matapihi.

Many have called Rangitikei home for a number of years, but now they are officially Kiwi's.



## Rangitikei District Quarterly Economic Update

We are pleased to produce the inaugural edition of our district's economic standing. In this report, there are key insights and data snapshots taken from across major economic sectors in Rangitikei.

Read more and to subscribe to receive this update by email at [www.rangitikei.govt.nz/quarterly-economic-update](http://www.rangitikei.govt.nz/quarterly-economic-update)

If you wish to discuss the report further, or have a general discussion about doing business in Rangitikei, please get in touch via [business@rangitikei.govt.nz](mailto:business@rangitikei.govt.nz)